Parks & Outdoor Recreation Division
Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing
Omineca-Peace Region

WEST LAKE

PROVINCIAL PARK

MASTER PLAN

M. Murtha
May 1981

105-06028/

Province of British Columbia — Ministry of [illegible]

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. G. Trachuk
Director,
Planning and Design

IN REPLYING PLEASE REFER TO:
FILE NO. 2-4-1-6-27

May 29, 1981

We are pleased to submit the West Lake Park Master Plan for review and approval.

RECOMMENDED V. Bopp — June 17 81
V. Bopp
District Manager — Date

RECOMMENDED T. O. Moore — July 3/81
T. O. Moore
Regional Director — Date

This will be an excellent guide for future development.

cc C. J. Velay

Province of British Columbia

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. G. Trachuk
Director
Planning and Design Branch

Date: 81-08-31
File: 2-4-1-6-27

Re: West Lake Park Master Plan

This plan has been reviewed and is recommended for your approval.

G.R. Scott
Master Planner
Planning Section

GRS/gb

Recommended G.F. Macnab Sept 8 1981
G.F. Macnab Date

Approved: George Trachuk Sept 7/81
G. Trachuk Date

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Setting

West Lake Provincial Park is located 25km southwest of Prince George and offers a variety of excellent recreational opportunities. Within a half-hour drive of 70,000 people, the park will quickly become the major beach and swimming area for the regional population and tourists (see Fig. 1). The major feature is a 400 m south facing beach of fine gravel. The park will also provide public access to the lake which is suitable for boating, fishing and water skiing. Park areas to the north and west of the beach are suitable for hiking and ski trails and for nature interpretation.

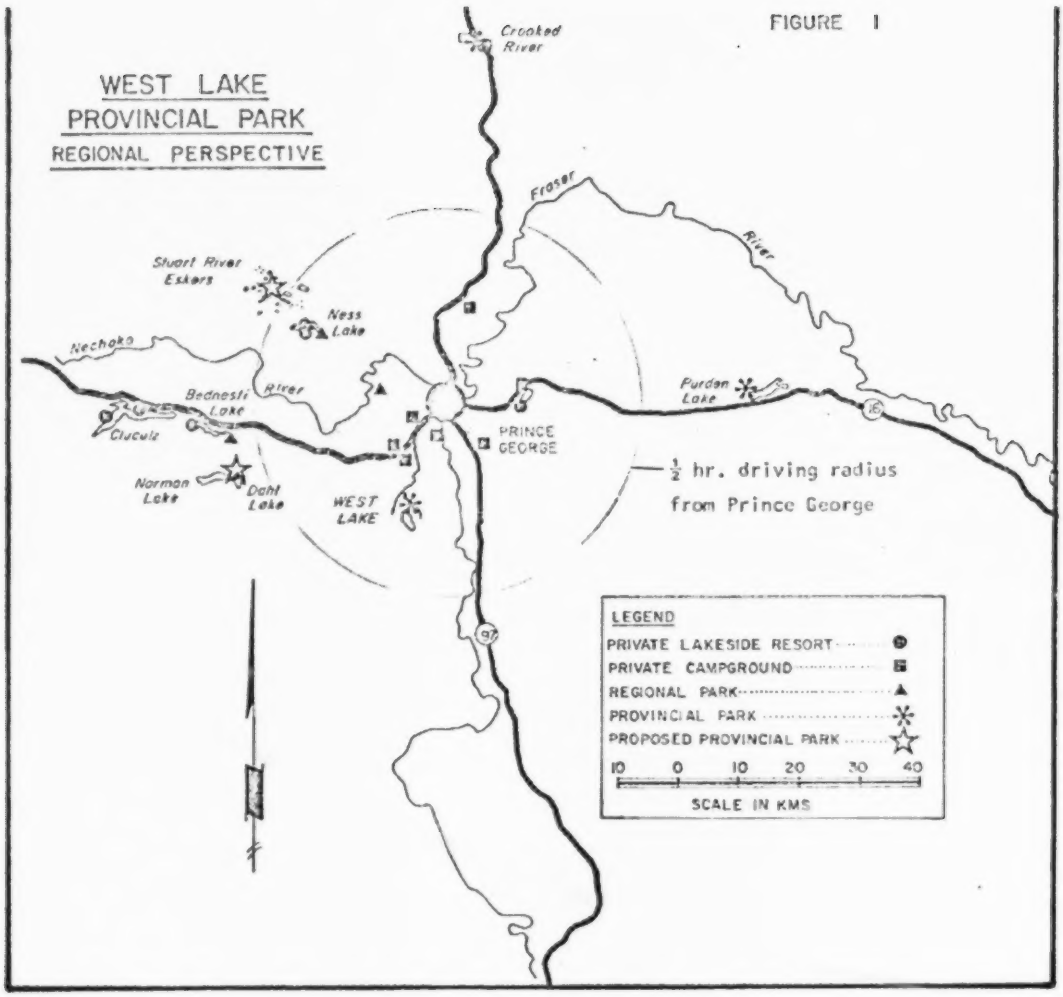
1.2 Provincial and Regional Perspective

West Lake Park was established in January 1981 and contains 242 hectares. Although located within the Fraser Basin Natural Landscape, this park will achieve only partial fulfillment of the division's conservation goals. Its primary purpose therefore will be to satisfy provincial recreation and tourism goals of the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division.

Within a half-hour's drive of Prince George there are 10 private campgrounds and 2 regional parks (Fig. 1). Only one of the parks and 3 of the private resorts have lake frontage. They are all limited in size and level of development. Purden Lake and Crooked River are the closest provincial parks. They both have beaches and lake recreation but are an hour from Prince George.

The proposed provincial parks at Dahl Lake and at the Stuart River Eskers will diversify the opportunities available to the regional population and will greatly improve the supply of recreation opportunities but they are not suited for the intensive type of use proposed for West Lake.

FIGURE 1


WEST LAKE
PROVINCIAL PARK
REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE
Crooked River
Fraser River
Stuart River Eskers
Ness Lake
Nechako
Bednesti Lake
River
Cluculz
Norman Lake
Dahl Lake
WEST LAKE
PRINCE GEORGE
Purden Lake
16
97
½ hr. driving radius from Prince George
LEGEND
PRIVATE LAKESIDE RESORT
PRIVATE CAMPGROUND
REGIONAL PARK
PROVINCIAL PARK
PROPOSED PROVINCIAL PARK
10 0 10 20 30 40
SCALE IN KMS

West Lake will be an important provincial park in the Prince George area. The variety of high standard, year-round day use facilities will accommodate many visitors and meet the needs of a broad range of users. Because of its closeness to town, the park will cater to short term visits (e.g. summer evenings) and group activities. For the many local residents involved in shift work, West Lake Park will be available even when only a few hours can be spared for recreation. In addition to the expected heavy weekend use, weekday use will also be popular, particularly for mothers and children. As the park will be serving primarily a local market, the summer season will be long, extending from late May to late September. The combination of these factors will result in optimum utilization of the park and a need for intensive maintenance and management.

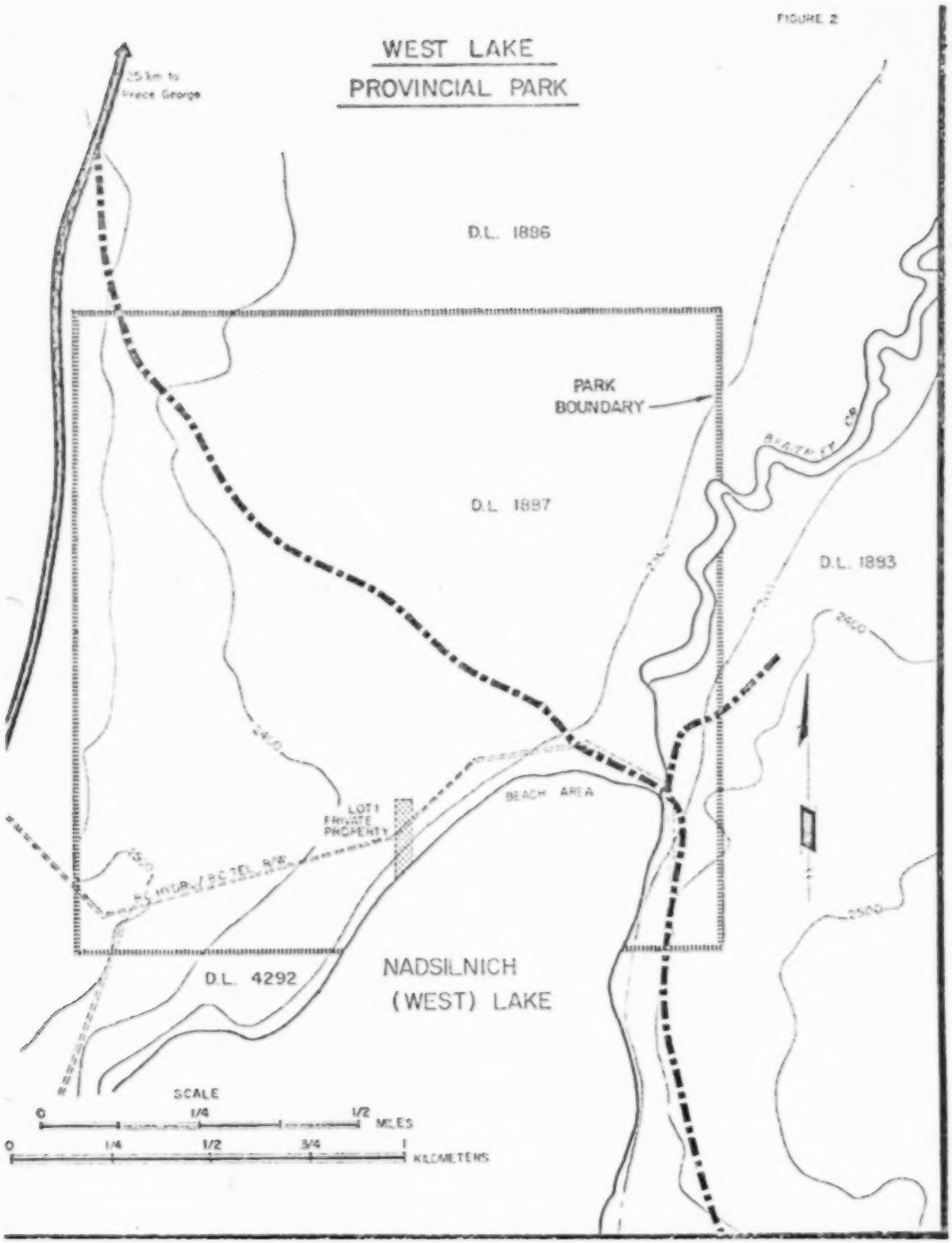
West Lake Park will also widen the range of attractions for tourists in the Prince George area thereby encouraging longer stays. New opportunities close to town will relieve some of the pressures on beach facilities at Crooked River and Purden Lake. Existing private campgrounds in the area should benefit from the complementary facilities at West Lake.

1.3 Existing Development

The beach and backshore have been operated as a small private summer resort for several years, providing a gravel parking area, picnic tables and fire rings, a snack bar and boat launching. The condition and arrangement of the facilities are inadequate for incorporation into the provincial park.

A gravel surface road maintained by the Ministry of Highways bisects the park, providing access directly to the development area and to sub-divisions on the east shore of the lake. A B.C. Hydro transmission line also crosses the development area. B.C. Tel shares the hydro right-of-way (see Fig. 2).

FIGURE 2


WEST LAKE
PROVINCIAL PARK
25 km to Prince George
D.L. 1886
PARK BOUNDARY
D.L. 1887
D.L. 1893
2400
2500
BEACH AREA
LOT 1 PRIVATE PROPERTY
D.L. 4292
NADSILNICH (WEST) LAKE
SCALE
0 1/4 1/2 MILES
0 1/4 1/2 3/4 1 KILOMETERS

A 0.7 ha enclave of private land lies to the west of the beach but is not critical to the development of visitor facilities at present. It will remain as an inholding until a need for purchase is demonstrated. A Park Use Permit will be required for access to this parcel, another for access to a farm northeast of the park and a third for access to D.L. 4292 through the southwest corner of the park. The roads already exist.

The remainder of the land within the park is in a relatively natural state. A few existing trails and skid roads on the west side will be incorporated into the trail system.

A registered trapline includes the Crown land portions of D.L. 1887 which were incorporated into the park. It is used for educational purposes by the Boy Scouts but is largely inactive. Hunting is insignificant in the area.

The park is surrounded by private land but is large enough to incorporate a buffer that will reduce any impact from or on private development. Facilities and use will be concentrated in the centre of the park. By providing public access to the lake, the park will reduce trespass problems for surrounding landowners.

Increased use of West Lake will inevitably result from park development but the lake is large enough to handle moderately heavy use.

1.4 Projected Demand

With a regional population of over 70,000, the Prince George area already suffers from an extreme shortage of developed day use recreation opportunities. Furthermore, as the regional centre for the northern interior, Prince George will grow with major new developments such as the northeast coal block projects and the Bowron Coal project. The Official Regional Plan of August, 1979 projects the population of the City of Prince George alone to grow to over 91,000 by 1986 and

to 106,000 by 1991. By providing access to a lake with high water quality and a good swimming beach, West Lake Park will provide a very important and popular recreation facility for the growing population.

For day use activities, one-half hour drivi .g time or 32 km appears to be maximum distance appropriate for travel. As present, Crooked River and Purden Lake, both of which are slightly over one hour's drive from the city, provide the only provincial park facilities in the Prince George area. They record heavy weekend use. There are three Regional District Parks (Ness, Berman Lake and Wilkins). Two are lake-based but are limited in size (30-40 units), amount of developed beach (25-30 meters), and in the type of user they hope to serve (local and regional residents only). Private operators at Tabor Lake and Ness Lake supply small beaches but their developments are not extensive enough to adequately satisfy present needs. In addition to the demand from local residents there is a need for tourist attractions such as historic sites and park facilities within a short distance of the city. Prince George is a major node at the intersection of two important tourist routes, Highway 97 and Highway 16. Day use developments are required to attract and hold tourists travelling through the city.

The popularity of the former beach resort at West Lake is evidence of the demand for this type of facility, as also is the excess weekend demand at Crooked River and Purden Lake parks. Unlike many provincial parks more distant from urban centres, the heavy use season for West Lake will be prolonged to include the late spring and early fall. In addition, heavy summer use is expected to extend into weekdays and over a longer period of time during the day, particularly as the city is growing southwestward and placing more people closer to the park.

West Lake Park will also help fulfill the demand for family oriented winter recreation facilities close to town.

1.5 Purpose of Master Plan

The purpose of this document is to provide a comprehensive plan that will guide the management and development of West Lake Provincial Park in order to achieve Recreation, Tourism and Conservation goals of the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division. A certain degree of flexibility will be maintained to incorporate new information as well as feedback from management actions within the park. Periodic review will facilitate revisions and ensure that objectives are being met.

2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

West Lake Park will be developed and managed to provide much needed day use recreation opportunities for residents and tourists in the Prince George area.

The preservation of a scenic natural landscape for interpretation and education purposes will be of secondary importance.

2.1 Recreation Goals

"To provide day use, boating and winter recreation opportunities to benefit Prince George area residents."

The good water quality, natural beach and sunny exposure provide ideal opportunities for swimming, picnicking and beach activities. Boating, fishing and water-skiing on West Lake will be enhanced through the provision of a public boat-launching area. Some trails will be developed for hiking. In winter they will be suitable for cross-country skiing, and together with opportunities for tobogganing, skating and ice fishing will create a family winter recreation area. Toilets and picnic shelters will be designed for year-round use. The expected high annual use will make West Lake Park an ideal location for providing information on other recreational opportunities in the Prince George area. The park will also lend itself to group activities and facilities.

2.2 Tourism Goals

"To enhance the private sector tourism infrastructure of the Prince George area through the provision of high quality day use recreation opportunities."

West Lake Park will assist the growth of tourism by diversifying the range of attractions available for visitors to the Prince George area. The day use facilities

will complement existing private campgrounds and motels and hotels in the city. The park will also provide an opportunity to disseminate information about other recreation opportunities in the area and about other parks in the provincial system.

2.3 Conservation Goals

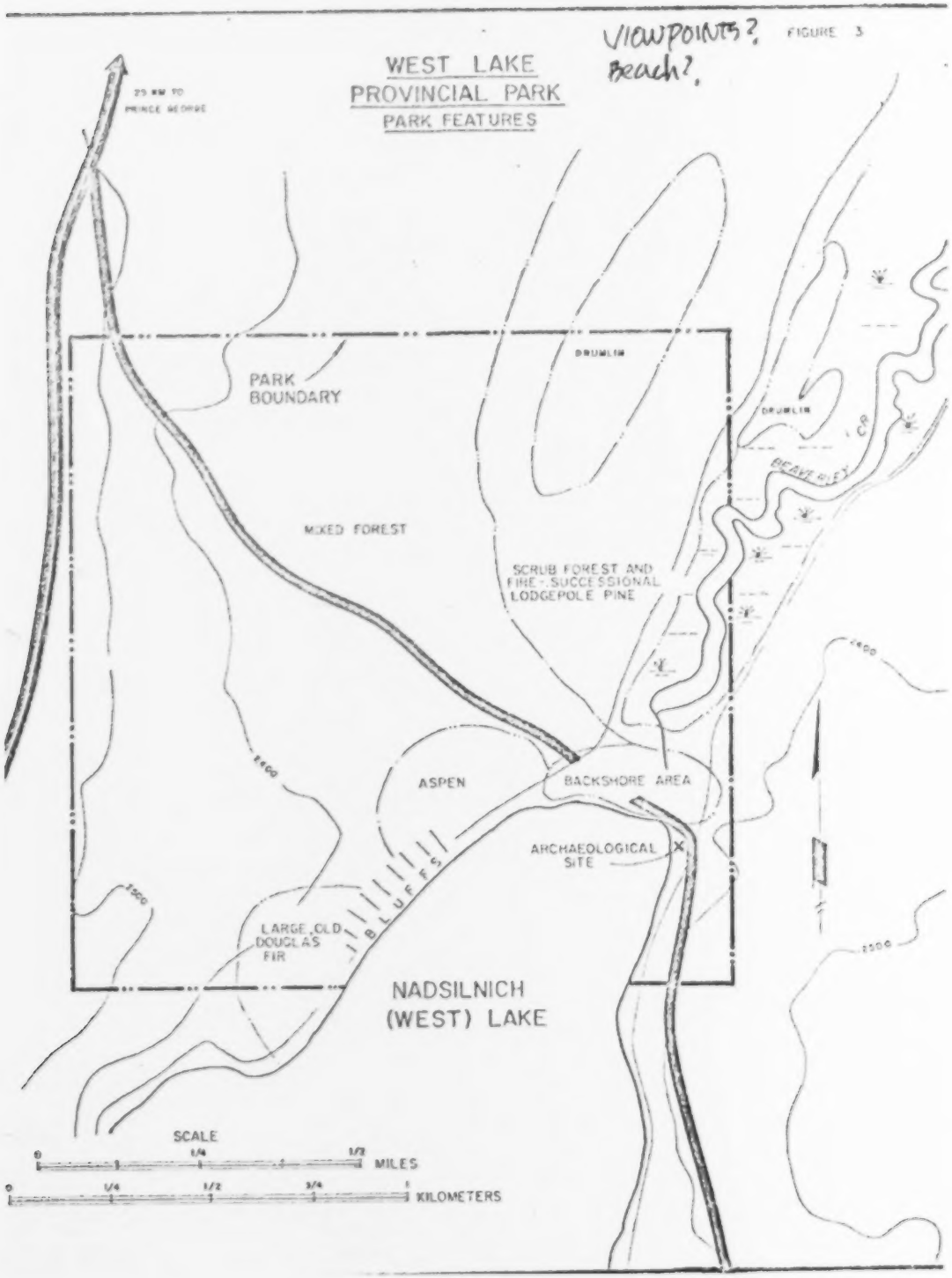
"To preserve a scenic natural landscape partially representative of the Fraser Basin and Plans for its inherent aesthetic attractions and for providing conservation information and education."

Although the Conservation Goals are of secondary importance, the majority of the park will remain in a largely natural state and provide a variety of interesting features suitable for interpretation. A network of trails through the forest and skirting the creek and marsh will provide a quiet contrast to the intensive use focused on the beach. Heavy use by school groups from Prince George is anticipated and will be encouraged.

The range of features suitable for interpretation includes remnants of glacial retreat (drumlin, former shoreline), marsh development, fish spawning areas, a variety of forest types, an archaeological site and human modification of a natural landscape. Interpretive storylines based on the "Boreal Forest" unit theme will be stressed.

2.4 Management Philosophy

West Lake Park will be developed and managed for intensive, year-round recreational use. Buildings will be designed for year-round operation and wherever possible, facilities will be multi-purpose. Because of anticipated heavy use and the existence of a public road through the park, continuous site supervision and an intensive maintenance program will be required. In the beach area, considerable site modification will be inevitable but in the remainder of the park, the objective will be to maintain the natural landscape.


WEST LAKE
PROVINCIAL PARK
PARK FEATURES
FIGURE 3
VIEWPOINTS?
Beach?
25 KM TO PRINCE GEORGE
PARK BOUNDARY
DRUMLIN
DRUMLIN
BEAVER CLEY
MIXED FOREST
SCRUB FOREST AND FIRE-SUCCESSIONAL LODGEPOLE PINE
1400
ASPEN
BACKSHORE AREA
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE
BLUFFS
1500
LARGE OLD DOUGLAS FIR
NADSILNICH (WEST) LAKE
1400
1500
SCALE
0 1/4 1/2 MILES
0 1/4 1/2 3/4 1 KILOMETERS

3. PARK RESOURCES STATEMENT

3.1 Natural History

3.1.1 Physiography

West Lake Park lies within the Fraser Basin Natural Landscape of the Interior Plateaux and Valleys Physiographic Region. (Youds, 1979). Representative features found within the park will contribute to fulfillment of the Division's Conservation Goals and are of interpretive interest.

West Lake is likely a remnant of a much larger lake that existed during glacial times. Other low lying areas within the park, including the marsh along Beaverley Creek, were also covered by water at one time and now exhibit the low lying flat topography characteristic of the Nechako Plain. A drumlin found at the north end of the park and oriented northeasterly in the direction of ice flows is also typical of the Fraser Basin (see Fig. 3). A second, attractive drumlin is found outside the northeast corner of the park. It would make an ideal trail destination.

Since glacial times the waters of West Lake have resorted the lacustrine materials on the shores to produce a substrate of fine pebbles along 400 metres of shoreline which is ideal for beach development (classified Class 3 by Canada Land Inventory). The backshore area is limited in extent (approximately 4 ha) but level and suitable for development. North of the beach area, the marsh is a barrier but it provides expansive views and a natural area suitable for interpretation and for elementary skiing in the winter. To east and west of the beach a gradual slope rises to the upland portions of the park which lend themselves to trails. Along the western shore, level bluffs overlooking the lake provide scenic locations for picnic sites.

Adjacent to the southwest shoreline of the park is a sheltered bay oriented southeastward (part of D.L. 4292). The backshore area is suitable for development. The site, presently private property, is a natural candidate for addition to the park and should be investigated for that purpose if it is offered for sale.

West Lake has clear, comparatively warm water and is popular for boating, fishing and water skiing. Over 3 km long and up to 1.6 km wide it is large enough to sustain moderately heavy use. The warm water is also ideal for swimming. Combined with the beach it provides the best natural swimming area close to Prince George. The lake is drained by Beaverley Creek which flows northward through the park.

3.1.2 Climate and Vegetation

West Lake has cold, snowy winters and short, warm summers typical of the Sub-Boreal Spruce Zone of the Microthermal Coniferous Forest Formation (Krajina). Mean daily temperature in January is -10° C to -15° C and in July 14° C to 16° C. Temperatures remain below 0° C for four to five months. Mean annual precipitation is 50 – 75 cm, with 14 to 17 days in January having measurable precipitation and 3 to 5 days in July. Though comparatively short, summers are pleasant. Swimming at West Lake begins as early as the end of May.

Winds are generally from the south and southwest during the summer so that a gentle breeze off the lake reduces the bug problem in the development area. Winter winds are predominantly from the north, and ice action along the beach is limited. Occasionally, however, the ice will go out with a storm from the south and rafts of ice are pushed a considerable distance into the development area.

The southern exposure of the beach area offers many hours of direct sunlight. Mature forests to the north and west of the beach provide cool, shady areas in the summer heat and protection from cold winter winds.

The park is located in the transition area between the Sub-Boreal Spruce Biogeoclimatic Zone and the Cariboo Aspen – Lodgepole Pine Zone (Krajina) and exhibits characteristics common to both. The marsh adds further variety to the vegetative cover. A dense forest of fire successional lodgepole pine lies north of the development area and west of the marsh. The uplands in the western half of the park have a mixed cover of birch, aspen, white spruce, lodgepole pine and Douglas fir providing a pleasant setting for trails. A stand of large mature Douglas fir on a bluff to the west of the beach is a notable feature. In the development area a stand of young aspen will provide bright shade for the picnic sites. A line of large cottonwoods immediately behind the beach is being undercut by wave and ice action and will probably have to be removed for safety reasons.

3.1.3 Fauna

Fishing in West Lake is moderate to good. The Fish and Wildlife Branch stock the lake annually with 20,000 to 50,000 rainbow trout. Some natural reproduction takes place in the tributaries but there is limited outlet stream reproduction. Beaverley Creek has been cleared downstream for approximately 60 m to enhance spawning. The creek is now classed as an Age Restricted Stream for those under 16 years and over 65 years of age. Species of fish found in the lake include rainbow trout, mountain whitefish, longnose sucker, large scale sucker, northern squawfish, redside shiner, Dolly Varden and ling (burbot).

Variations in ground and forest cover types support a diversity of wildlife. Birds commonly observed include bald eagles, osprey, kingfishers, pileated woodpeckers, grebes, and ruffed grouse. Large mammals are characteristic of the boreal forest and include moose, deer, bear, wolves, coyotes, fox and cougar. More commonly seen, however, are the smaller mammals such as beaver, otter, muskrat, rabbits and squirrels. The marsh area along Beaverley Creek will likely be a good location for wildlife viewing and nature interpretation. Beaver are active in Beaverley Creek and create a nuisance by blocking the culverts under the highway. Otter are also active at the lake outlet.

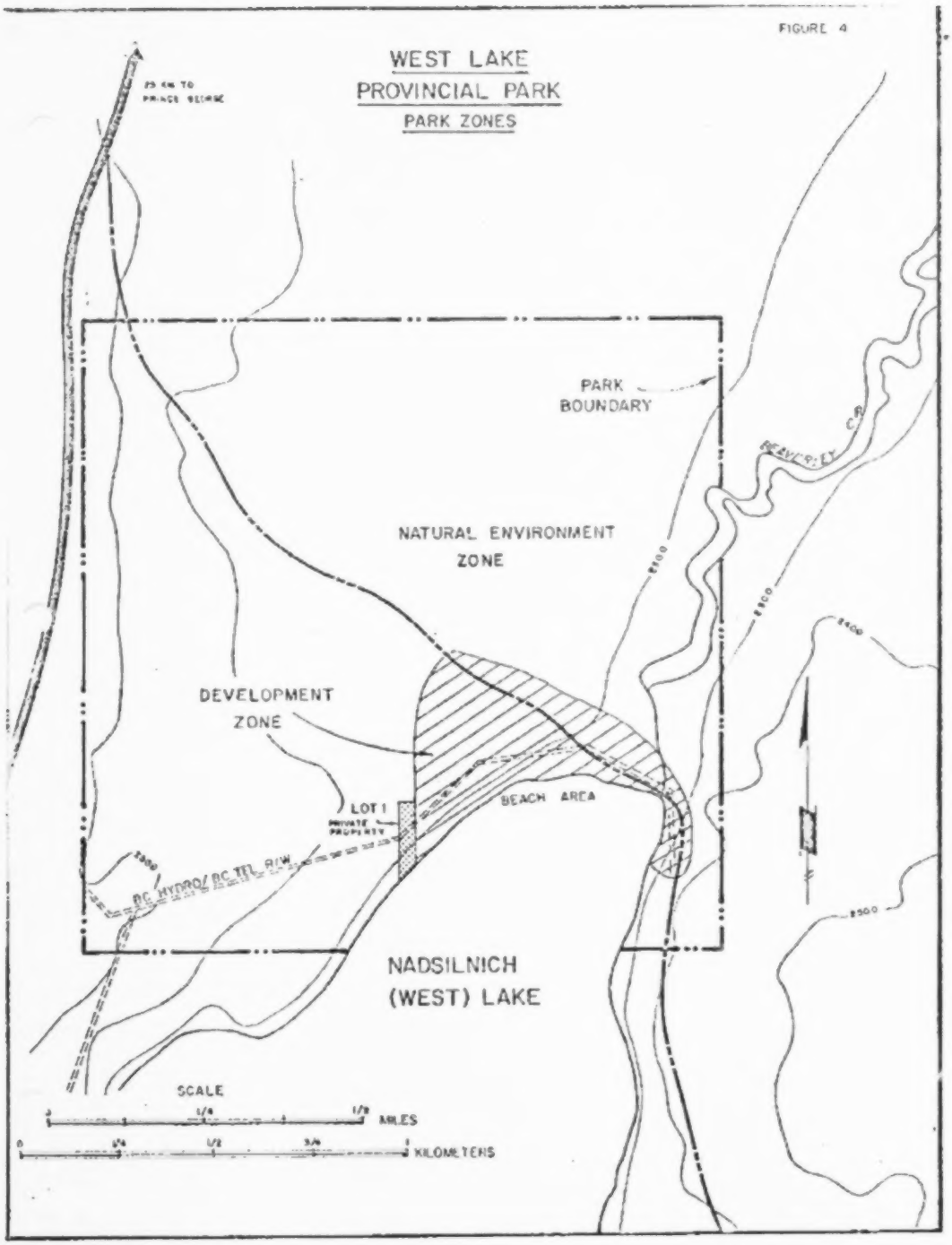


FIGURE 4
WEST LAKE
PROVINCIAL PARK
PARK ZONES
PARK BOUNDARY
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ZONE
DEVELOPMENT ZONE
LOT 1
PRIVATE PROPERTY
BEACH AREA
BC HYDRO/ BC TEL R/W
NADSILNICH (WEST) LAKE
SCALE
MILES
KILOMETERS

3.2 Cultural History

3.2.1 Archaeological Resources

One site (FkRr1) has been identified on the east side of Beaverley Creek beside the lake (Fig. 3). It was likely a fishing and hunting camp (the creek spawning area is adjacent). The site is of minor significance but has interpretive interest.

3.2.2 Historic Resources

The area has been settled since the 1920's. A few skid roads remain from previous selective logging. The West Lake Resort was opened in the 1960's. There are no significant historic features.

4. ZONING

The goal of West Lake Park is to provide for intensive day use focusing on the beach. A secondary goal is to preserve the park's natural setting, which will also accommodate auxiliary activities at moderate use levels.

Consequently two zones will be established (see Fig. 4). Zoning criteria are listed in Appendix 2.

- a Development Zone containing the majority of the park's facilities. This zone contains the land between the beach and the relocated road, plus the picnic area to the west. A small area east of the creek is also included for development as a group picnic area. All areas included have been modified by years of use. Approximately 20 ha or 8% of the park is included in the Development Zone.

- a Natural Environment Zone containing the remainder of the park (approximately 222 ha, 92% of the total). Recreational capability is reduced in much of this zone by the marsh, the impenetrable stand of young lodgepole pine, steeper slopes and distance from the lake. The zone does provide a buffer around the Development Zone and also a natural backdrop. Park development will be limited to trails for hiking, skiing and interpretation. The zone is also bisected by rights-of-way for the highway and for B.C. Hydro and B.C. Tel.

No Wilderness Zone is included.

5. PARK MANAGEMENT

West Lake Park will be the local beach area for Prince George. Heavy sustained use over a long summer season is anticipated and planning is based on this expectation. Use will be moderate at other times of the year, with school groups anticipated on weekdays and families on sunny weekends.

5.1 Resource Management

5.1.1 Land Management

Objective: to manage the park land for maximum recreational benefits

- the majority of visitor use and development will be concentrated along the lakeshore.
- short trails will be provided in other areas of the park.
- Lot 1 will remain a private inholding at present. Future acquisition should be considered if use pressures are severe in adjacent park areas or if the property is offered for sale. The boat launch will be located next to this property.
- considerable site modification will be undertaken in the vicinity of the beach in order to provide the maximum area for parking, sunning and beach areas.
- disturbance of the creek edges will be limited to minor modifications that might be associated with any fishery enhancement program and to some channelling which is unavoidable at the road crossing.
- two areas should be considered for future addition to the park.

(i) The bay on D.L. 4292 adjacent to the southwest corner of the park would provide a second beach area if use of the main beach becomes as heavy as expected (see Fig. 2).

(ii) Attractive natural areas lie just outside the northeast corner of the park. The small drumlin is actually more interesting than the larger one which is partly within the park boundary, while the marsh area surrounding it is very attractive (see Fig. 3). The area lies partly in the northwest corner of D.L. 1883 and partly in the southwest corner of D.L. 1879. Nature trails and a marsh viewing area would be ideal developments.

5.1.2 Vegetation Management

Objective: to manage the park vegetation for maximum recreational benefits.

- Removal of vegetation will be undertaken in a sympathetic manner in order to develop and maintain access roads, parking, picnic areas, lake views, and air circulation. This will apply particularly to the aspens on the terrace west of the beach. The development plan must ensure that groves of aspen are retained in this area:
- to ensure natural regeneration;
- to provide some screening between sites;
- to provide a natural appearance when viewed from the lake;
- to provide natural play areas for children;
- to attract wildlife;
- to preserve wildflowers, shrubs and berries.
- active management will be undertaken to maintain public safety and to protect park facilities by checking for and removing hazardous trees. Stands that especially require assessment are the fringe of cottonwoods along the beach, veteran Douglas firs on the bluffs and diseased birch and aspen west of the beach.
- landscaping with resilient grass and shrub species will be undertaken in the beach area. Periodic irrigation may be necessary because of the gravel base.
- all forest fires will be suppressed.
- blowdown trees in development areas will be salvaged and used as firewood. Elsewhere they will be left.

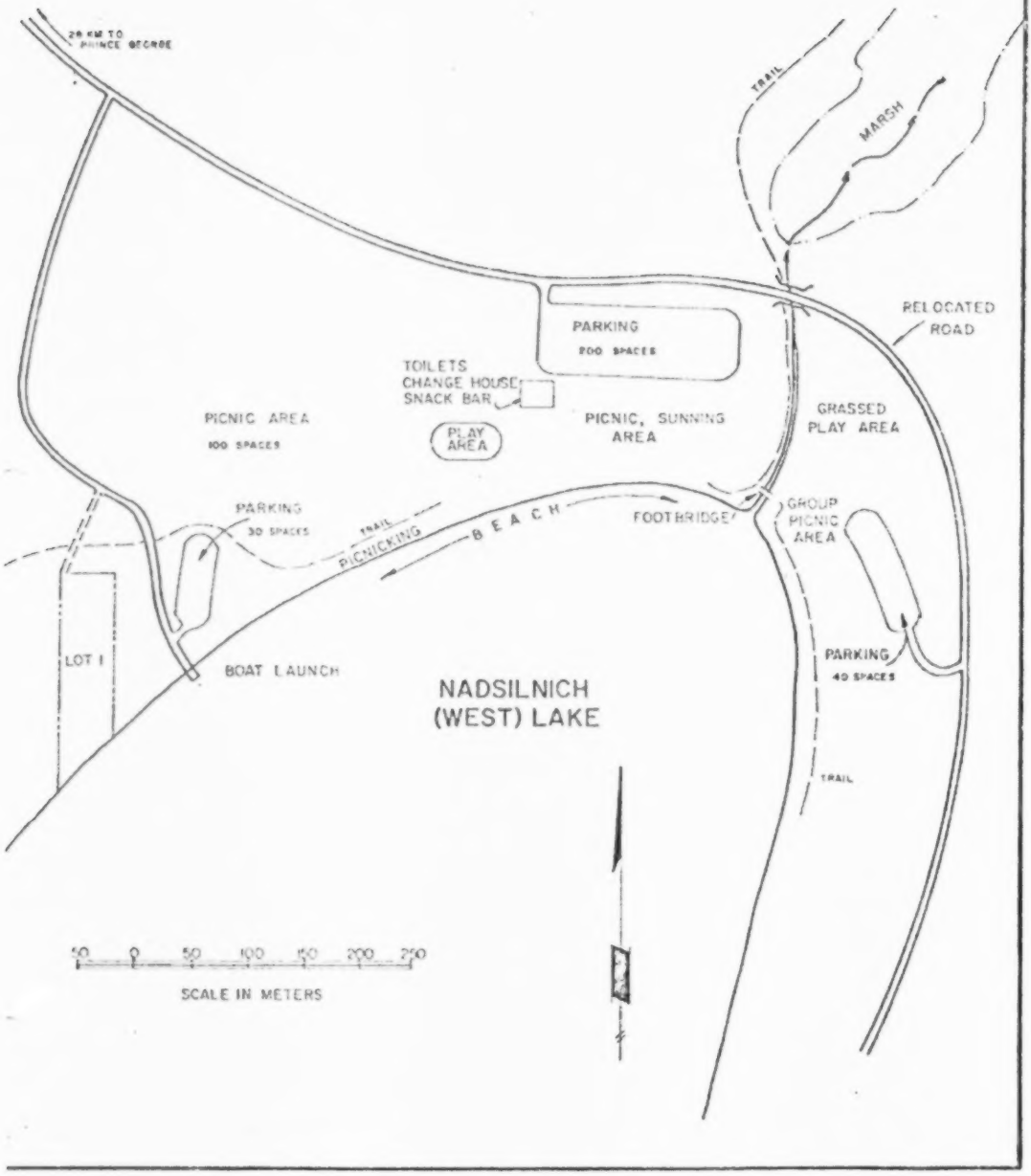
5.1.3 Wildlife Management

Objective: to manage the park wildlife for maximum recreational benefits and minimal conflicts with visitors.

- active management to enhance wildlife habitat will be restricted to the spawning areas of Beaverley Creek. Elsewhere in the park, the maintenance of wildlife habitat will be an incidental benefit.

FIGURE 5

WEST LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK
DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT



- hunting and trapping will be prohibited in the park. An existing registered trapline includes those parts of the park which were formerly Crown land. The Fish and Wildlife Branch has been asked to exclude the park from the trapline and to ensure that it is excluded from any future assignments of the trapping rights.
- fishing pressure on West Lake will increase as a result of the public access provided by the park. The lake itself is outside the park and the fishery is the responsibility of the Fish and Wildlife Branch. The Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division will cooperate in maintaining the sport fishery, e.g. by permitting enhancement of spawning areas in Beaverley Creek, by permitting creel censuses in the park, etc.
- nuisance animals (particularly bears) will be removed from the park. All garbage will be taken out of the park in order to reduce the attraction. The nearby garbage dump administered by the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is to be moved in 1982, which will remove any potential bear problem from the park area.

5.1.4 Watershed Management

Objective: to conform with regulations and commitments that govern water quality and quantity and to maximize recreational benefits.

- the West Lake watershed drains through the park via Beaverley Creek. Land uses surrounding the lake can influence the water quality, which is a prime park attraction. P.O.R.D. will liaise with regulatory agencies and will cooperate in projects designed to maintain water quality.
- P.O.R.D. will ensure that facilities and activities within the park do not cause deterioration of water quality.
- boating activities and facilities will be separated as much as possible from the beach.
- P.O.R.D. will cooperate in any fisheries enhancement program that involves control of water flows in Beaverley Creek (e.g. to eliminate coarse fish). Any

alterations or disruptions of flow will be discussed with the Water Management Branch. No major downstream commitments presently exist.

5.1.5 Archaeological Site Management

Objective: to ensure known sites are left undisturbed for scientific investigations and interpretive purposes.

- the known site on the east side of Beaverley Creek will remain undisturbed. Visitor facilities will be limited to a trail along the creek bank.
- the site is an interesting interpretive feature, particularly as it probably owes its existence to the adjacent spawning area which is still in use. Such educational use will not endanger the site.
- the Heritage Conservation Branch will be informed of development plans prior to the commencement of any work on the site.

5.2 Visitor Management

5.2.1 Access

Objective: to provide safe, convenient access to and through the park.

- the Ministry of Highways will be asked to relocate a section of road in the vicinity of Beaverley Creek in order to enlarge the usable area behind the beach.
- the Ministry of Highways will be requested to pave the 2 km of road between the park and the Blackwater Road and to post the appropriate directional signs, commencing on Highway 16.
- the highway right-of-way will be ditched and/or fenced through the park in order to control access.
- park access roads will be gated.
- winter plowing of the access highway already occurs because of subdivisions east of the park. An agreement will be sought with the Ministry of Highways for plowing of part of the main parking area and the access to it so that winter use can be accommodated.

- vehicles will not be permitted access through the park on to the lake ice during winter. P.O.R.D. should not be party to an activity which creates a hazard to recreational use of the ice surface and which can also increase the vulnerability of surrounding landowners to trespass and vandalism.
- Park Use Permits will be issued for access roads which pre-date park establishment. D.L. 1883 will have a separate access from the relocated highway east of Beaverley Creek. Lot 1, within the park, will be accessible via the boat launch road. The access road to D.L. 4292 follows the BC Hydro rights-of-way in the southwest corner of the park.

5.2.2 Visitor Facilities

Objective: to provide a variety of high quality facilities suited to a range of day use activities.

- the site will be developed to accommodate approximately 1200 people at any one time. At maximum capacity the park will be busy but not intolerably overcrowded.
- the development concept is shown in Fig. 5.
- approximately 400 m of sand beach will be developed; floats will be provided in the swimming area, which will be designated by buoys.
- approximately 2 ha of level, open land behind the eastern half of the beach will be grassed and maintained as a sunning area. Approximately 50 picnic tables will be provided.
- a 200 vehicle parking area will be provided behind the sunning area (this requires relocation of the highway). Approximately 1 ha. will be required for this purpose.
- the remaining 1 ha or so of level land will be devoted to a toilet building, change houses, a site for a snack bar concession, a picnic shelter with stove and tables and a children's play area. The grouping will be central to the whole development area.
- the gently rolling terrace west of the sunning area will be selectively cleared of aspen and developed for picnicking. 100 tables and 100 parking stalls will be

provided in clusters. Approximately 8 ha are available. One picnic shelter with stove and tables will be provided.

- the area east of the creek will be developed for group picnic use on a reservation basis. The design will permit exclusion of the general public during a reservation period. At other times the site will be available for public use.
- west of the beach a single boat launch will be developed, with parking for 30 vehicles and trailer; a wharf and a water ski takeoff area will also be provided. Adjacent lakeshore picnic tables will be provided for boaters.
- short trails will be laid out along Beaverley Creek; around the western edge of the marsh; along the lakeshore and through the forest west of the picnic area.

5.2.3 Winter Recreation

Objective: to provide opportunities for a variety of family-oriented winter activities.

- the infrastructure of recreation facilities close to Prince George will provide an excellent opportunity for short-duration winter activities.
- the park is suited to cross-country skiing (on the summer trails, around the lake and through the marsh), ice fishing, skating, tobogganing and picnicking. Because of the size of the park and the limited relief, such activities are best aimed at families interested in going out for just a couple of hours.
- a parking area for 50 vehicles will be plowed out initially. The size of a plowed area will subsequently be governed by experience.
- the toilets will be designed for year-round operation; the picnic shelter near the parking lot will be maintained for winter use.
- snowmobiling will not be permitted because of the park's limited size.

5.2.4 Interpretation and Information

Objective: to provide information about West Lake Park and information about other parks in the region.

- as the park will be developed for intensive day use, interpretation will be limited to a trail along the creek and marsh. There will be no interpretive staff.

- school groups will be encouraged to use the park by applying to the District Manager. Educational materials will be prepared so that teachers can conduct their own programs
- community groups and organizations will be permitted to use the park for water safety instruction, canoe lessons, swim classes, ski lessons, etc. provided there is no disruption of public use, and provided they have a valid letter of authority.

5.3 Administration

- the park will be administered from the Prince George District Office. No staff will be housed in the park and there will be no service yard.
- the park's proximity to town will necessitate intensive security, probably under contract.
- firewood will be supplied in the picnic areas but will be obtained from outside the park or from salvaged blowdowns.
- an intensive maintenance program will be essential.
- the anticipated heavy use will necessitate frequent garbage collection during the peak period. All garbage should be removed from the park. Suitable arrangements will be made with the Regional District.
- park operation and maintenance will require 20 man-months of staffing.
- the buildings existing on the site at the time of park establishment are in poor condition and unsuited to park purposes. They will be removed.
- the B.C. Hydro and B.C. Tel lines will be relocated northwards in the development area, to follow the right-of-way of the relocated highway. Feeder lines will provide power and telephone service to the site. A Park Use Permit will be issued to each company to authorize the lines crossing the park.
- Park Use Permits will be issued for the three access roads which cross park property (see Section 5.2.1).
- winter plowing of a parking area will be negotiated with the Ministry of Highways.
- the park will be operated year-round.

- the snack bar will be operated by a concessionaire. No buildings or equipment will be supplied by P.O.R.D. for this purpose, with the exception of power and water connections.
- active community involvement will be promoted

6. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- the development concept is shown in Fig 5.
- development of the park will be phased.
- Phase 1 will consist of:
    - relocation of the road and the hydro and telephone lines;
    - beach development;
    - 200 vehicle parking area;
    - toilet building;
    - change houses;
    - picnic shelter;
    - 50 picnic sites along the lakeshore;
    - boat launch and parking for 30 vehicles with trailers;
    - water supply;
    - sewage disposal system;
    - power supply.

- Phase 2 will consist of:
    - picnic sites in treed area west of the beach, with parking for 100 vehicles;
    - play area;
    - group picnic area, with a shelter and parking for 30 vehicles and two buses.

- Phase 3 will be limited to trail construction and development of the interpretive program for teachers.

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APPENDIX II

PRIMARY ZONING SYSTEM

ZONE	OBJECTIVES	MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES	FACILITIES/ACTIVITIES
Development	To provide for a variety of facility-oriented recreational opportunities.	-oriented toward maintaining high quality recreation and interpretive experience. -intensive management may be required to ensure that high quality recreation and interpretive opportunities are maintained. -special design consideration generally required. -intensity of developments and standard of facilities are variable and will relate to the objectives for the Park. -private motorized vehicles may be restricted.	-intensive recreational facilities such as auto campgrounds, cabins, lodges, picnic areas, beach and swimming areas, nature houses, information buildings, downhill ski facilities, walk-in campgrounds. -ancillary facilities such as parking, sanitation, picnic tables, restaurants, may be included in this zone.
Natural Environment	To provide for intermediate levels of outdoor recreational opportunities/use in a natural setting.	-management will be oriented toward maintenance or restoration of the natural environment. -visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreational experience or to limit impact on the area. -designation of transportation modes may be necessary to avoid potential conflicts. (e.g. horse trails, cycle paths, hiking trails) -private motorized vehicles may be permitted. -intensity of management and development will be consistent with moderate levels of recreational use. -visitor support facilities will be limited, and directed toward providing for public safety and minimizing user impact.	-Development and use are consistent with the maintenance of natural conditions. Activities consistent with this zone would be: hiking, caroing, canoeing, kayaking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, nature observation, horse back riding, picnicking, swimming, fishing, interpretation programs. -minimal facilities such as trails, shelters, hikers' campsites, portages, horse corrals, observation blinds, may be developed to compliment these activities, but the emphasis of the development will be toward public safety rather than the encouragement of more intensive levels of use. -visitor facilities will be of a primitive nature.
Wilderness	-To protect and preserve landscapes and resource processes. -To provide for low levels of recreational use in an environment where natural processes occur with a minimum of human interference.	-oriented toward the protection and preservation of the area's atmosphere, environment or ecology, while optimizing recreational opportunities associated with the "wilderness experience". -unstructured visitor mobility. -visitor support facilities will not be provided, except where absolutely necessary to provide for public safety or minimizing user impact. -transportation limited to foot access, and non-motorized boats. -horse travel may be restricted.	-only minimal primitive facilities would be developed consistent with low intensity uses. Activities consistent with this zone include: camping, hiking/mountaineering, canoeing, kayaking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, fishing, nature observation.